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BOOKS

Pipe Dream:

Loser in the great gas pipeline quest paints dark picture

SUPER PIPE: THE ARCTIC PIPELINE WORLD'S GREATEST FIASCO? By Berle Gray Griffin House $7.95

By JENNIFER LEWINGTON Special to The Gazette

A decade ago, the first plans were conceived for shipping gas from Alaska through Canadian territory and down to consumers in the American mid-West. In 1979, with Americans enduring the frustration and violence of gas shortages, the pipeline which would have eased some of the supply problems has yet to be built.

Super Pipe: The Arctic Pipeline — World's Greatest Fiasco? by Berle Gray reportedly titled first as "the pipeline that never got laid" — is an attempt to explain what went wrong in those 10 years. And, more directly, what went wrong for Canadian Arctic Gas Pipeline Ltd., the 28-member U.S. and Canadian consortium created in 1973 to ship Alaskan and MacKenzie Delta gas southward.

In 1976, the National Energy Board turned down Arctic Gas — the original pipeline applicant — in favor of upstart Foothills Pipelines Ltd. which proposed an alternate route down the Alaska Highway and across Alberta to the U.S.

Gray, a former editor of *Oilweek* magazine, writes from the vantage point of a participant. He was director of public affairs for Canadian Arctic Gas. Not surprisingly, he paints a dark picture of how the good guys — Canadian Arctic Gas — were defeated by the bad guys — an assortment of church groups, environmentalists, native groups and rival pipeline forces led by Bob Blair of Foothills.

In Gray's view, an eminently sensible solution to gas transportation from the western Arctic was scuttled by several forces, including Marxist philosophers in native groups (egged on by southern whites) who saw the pipeline as leverage for building a separate Dene nation in the North. But in describing the personalities engaged in the political conflicts of the native groups, Gray fails to make a convincing case that the native groups were out-and-out Marxists.

Mr. Justice Thomas Berger, whose Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry recommendations proved a body blow to Arctic Gas, is viewed as a man swept up in the cause for native rights and unable to present a clear assessment of the terms for building the pipeline.

Gray seems to suggest there was something wrong in Berger's arranging federal funding for native groups to make their cases before his inquiry.

"He provided them with a national platform more powerful, with news media coverage more extensive than any pipeline inquiry in Canada had ever attained. "But given the implications of pipeline construction on the social, economic and environmental fabric of the North, it seems only fair that those most affected — the residents - would have the means to make their views known."

While it is natural for Gray to criticize those who, in his assessment, confounded Arctic Gas' bid, one would have hoped for more analysis of why Justice Berger, the native groups, the churches and the environmentalists were apparently so wrong-headed. Though he does not say so directly, it appears that these protagonists should not have had a role in what was clearly one of Canada's most important energy and development issues.

Gray's most stinging barbs are saved for Bob Blair, an Easterner turned Western cowboy who engineered the winning bid which, unlike Arctic Gas', received scant review by regulatory authorities. While Gray heaps scorn on the antics of Blair and his allies, we hear too little of the motivations and antics of Canadian Arctic Gas in lobbying its own cause. Only in one reference — that Arctic Gas was too rigid in pressuring for government financial backing for pipeline construction — is there a sign that Arctic Gas was partly responsible for its own downfall.

Super Pipe would have more exciting reading and we had the inside story on Canadian Arctic Gas. And, 10 years and about one-quarter of a billion dollar later, amid signs that the Alaska Highway gas project faces some frustrating question marks, Canadians are still waiting to hear the full story of the pipeline that hasn't been laid.

Jennifer Lewington is a freelance writer based in Ottawa.

MISSING SPARK

Watergate prosecutor's memoirs are informative but lacking in insight

CONFESSION AND AVOIDANCE A Memoir by Leon Jaworski Written with Mickey Herskowitz Doubleday, Canada Ltd. $13.95

By BARBARA CAMPBELL Special to The Gazette

While the personal memoirs of prominent individuals are an irresistible temptation to curious readers, they frequently prove disappointing.

This is regrettably true of Leon Jaworski's memoir *Confession and Avoidance*, a book which must surely attract widespread public interest through the author's involvement in Watergate.

As the title suggests, Jaworski is essentially a lawyer, writing about justice and the law. "Confession and avoidance" is a legal term which he defines as pleading a case where the defendant did the act, but should be excused for legal or moral reasons. He employs this method to plead his own case. *Confession and Avoidance* is primarily a serious attempt to describe how conclusions were reached, especially in the most controversial cases of his career at the bar.

However, despite his prominent role in cases which have shaped U.S. history and his close association with numerous famous and infamous characters — and even with the help of co-author Mickey Herskowitz — Jaworski fails to breathe life into his story.

This is not for lack of adequate material. He begins by describing his earlier challenges where he attempted to defend Jordan Scott, a black man accused of murder, and represented a self-made oilman who was going for nothing less than broke. Then he gives accounts of the painstaking task of the American War Trials, and his entrance into politics through defending Lyndon Johnson against charges of illegally running on two ballots simultaneously.

Finally, step-by-step, Jaworski traces the slow process of gathering information, weighing its value and eventually reaching decisions in the Warren Commission investigation into President John F. Kennedy's assassination, the Watergate trials, and the more recent investigation into Korean scandals in Washington.

In his account of Watergate, Jaworski introduces quotations from tapes, and his description of the Korean investigation includes lengthy excerpts from the questioning of such important individuals as Tongson Park and Kim Dong Jo.

However, while some of this material is perhaps new even to the informed student of these issues, and the conclusions of such a renowned lawyer are of the highest credibility, many readers, lacking adequate background knowledge, will become increasingly caught in a web of complicated events and technicalities.

In addition, although his clear, logical documentation will certainly interest some, the spark which inspires empathy — or even perhaps a healthy sense of outrage — is totally lacking. Jaworski fails to provide insight into the wide range of fascinating characters encountered in his career. His use of analogies is frequently obscure, and his rare attempts at humor are unsuccessful.

Like many who have succeeded in impressing the world with their achievements in such fields as science, the arts, politics and law, Leon Jaworski fails to inspire us through his writing.

Barbara Campbell is a Montreal freelance writer.

CRUEL HUMOR

'Cruel Shoes' buyers find joke's on them

CRUEL SHOES By Steve Martin Longman Canada Ltd. 128 pages $9.50

By JUAN RODRIGUEZ of The Gazette

The ad copy for superstar comedian Steve Martin's quickie bestseller says: "It's got everything you expect from a great book. Sentences, words, commas, periods, the works.

The joke, of course, is that this collection of 51 non-stories spread in large print over 128 pages — including several in-concert photographs — is not a great book. It's a blatantly atrocious book of vacant parable-like chapters. But it's selling like hotcakes. It is perfectly in keeping with the author's success: Martin comes on as a pompous incompetent on stage, and is greeted by millions of fans as a cult figure.

The joke, of course, is on the public. The bigger Martin's success, the funnier his hucksterism — getting away with murder — the more he appeals to his fans. They enjoy his image of non-talent — he's a welcome change from the hordes of entertainers who pretend to have talent. Steve Martin is a real fake.

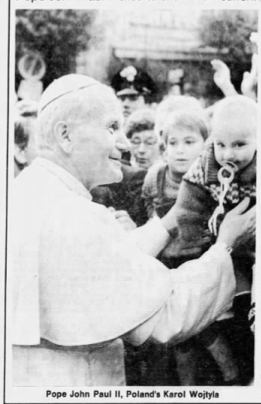
He's also a smart businessman. The book sells for $9.50 in Canada, $6.95 in the U.S., comparable to the price of a record album. It only makes sense that at least a portion of the three million people who shelled out for his two albums will buy this book. To date, 200,000 have — for just the hardcover version.

In years to come *Cruel Shoes* will be seen as an artifact of our time, a remembrance of a time when a comedian milked an audience's craving for stupidity and made millions of dollars from it. There is nothing else to recommend it. You have to be a Martin fan to find any humor in *Cruel Shoes*. And that's perhaps the cruelest joke of all.

Gazette rock critic Juan Rodriguez recently wrote an article on "the new humor."

FOOD FOR SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Pope John Paul II tries to show how suffering and doubt are contradicted by Christ



Pope John Paul II, Poland's Karol Wojtyla

SIGN OF CONTRADICTION By Karol Wojtyla, Pope John Paul II The Seabury Press 206 pages $8.95

By DAVID WINCH Special to The Gazette

In his brief tenure as Pope John Paul II, Karol Wojtyla has not so far generated the same degree of personal insight as had his immediate predecessor, Lucio Cardinal Albini had, after all, published an intriguing series of "letters" to literary figures; his "conversations" with Charles Dickens, Carlo Goldoni and Mark Twain revealed a lively imagination, an engaging personality and an awareness of the need for social justice.

The new pope has not until now shown the same versatility. Granted, he had published studies in phenomenology. These were impressive for Catholic intellectuals in that they showed a mind as familiar with 20th-century thought as with Scripture.

The most recent work published by the new pope, *Sign of Contradiction*, brings into focus many of the themes of his earlier ministry. This work contains a series of spiritual exercises presented to Pope Paul VI and the Roman Curia in a 1976 Lenten retreat. The poetry and grace of the style are remarkable. More significant, however, is the continuous reliance on a few themes.

The "sign of contradiction" which the title refers to is the appearance of Christ in a world which seems to contradict divine reality. The worldly realities of materialism and suffering are in particular contrasted with the hope which faith permits. In this sense, Christ is seen as a "sign of contradiction."

Drawing on Scripture, the future Pope attempted to show how contemporary non-belief and suffering are contradicted by Jesus' life and teaching. Parallels are drawn between the 20th-century's ills and Biblical prophecy.

These exercises once again reveal a mind steeped in scriptural teaching. This background is to be expected of a man who has spent his life in the Church. Two other influences emerge, however, which may already have affected the direction of Catholicism.

The first is the Pope's national origin. Frequent allusion is made in these discourses to Polish society, history and religious life. At one point the pope-to-be alludes to the solace which Christ's passion brings to those who suffer from personal defeat or national oppression. He is quick to add that not all of the oppressed and colonized nations are in the Third World — a clear reference to Eastern Europe. This national attachment emerged clearly during the Pope's recent visit to Poland and may continue to be prominent.

The other influence on the new Pope's writings is more subtle and intellectual. While showing considerable familiarity with the history of philosophy, it is existentialism and phenomenology which have most affected his thought. It is striking to reflect that 30 years after many existential works were put on the Index by the Catholic Church, a Pope should be elected who makes constant reference in his writing to Martin Heidegger. It remains to be seen how this will shape John Paul II's vicariage.

Nourished by Scripture and his personal convictions, the new Pope's work offers considerable material for spiritual reflection.

David Winch studies philosophy at McGill University.

ONLY THE BEST WOULD DO

Dame Maggie Teyte's devotion to her art left her an emotionally crippled being

THE PURSUIT OF PERFECTION A LIFE OF MAGGIE TEYTE By Garry O'Connor Clarke, Irwin Ltd. 327 pages, $26.95

By VALERIE WARD Special to The Gazette

When British soprano Dame Maggie Teyte died three years ago at 88, public memory of her was dim. Yet, in her hey-day, Teyte had been an international Edwardian celebrity, a leading soprano with the principal opera houses of Europe and the United States, and an outstanding concert artist.

She had known personally the major French composers of the early 20th century — Debussy, Hahn, Fauré — and was acknowledged as one of the foremost interpreters of modern French song. She had performed with Caruso and Flagstad, numbered Rubinstein among her accompanists and Sir Thomas Beecham among her lovers.

Written by Teyte's grand nephew, *The Pursuit of Perfection* portrays an enigmatic woman whose unrelenting devotion to her art made her, by her own admission, less able to love another human being.

Teyte channelled her finest qualities into her work. Her rare combination of interpretative insight and technical expertise profoundly moved audiences and affected even the most hardened of orchestra players. The poetic range of her talent was balanced by hyphenation, common sense and professional integrity.

From an early age, she displayed remarkable level-headedness. She made her public debut at age 13 at a London church concert, and shortly afterward, under the patronage of the wealthy Hubens family, left the security of her middle-class home to enter the glittering world of Edwardian society. She met the fashionable and musical celebrities of the day and studied voice in Paris for two years with the renowned Jean de Reszke. Surprisingly, this dramatic change in milieu did not go to her head. It amused and stimulated her but never weakened her immense discipline and dedication.

In Teyte's view, the only real confidence, the only meaningful success, was based on talent, study, and hard work. As a young singer with the Opera Comique, she shunned bribery and the casting couch — the accepted routes to an operatic career — and stayed aloof from off-stage intrigues. Although she lacked the experience or reputation to battle the reigning prima donnas, she won on her own terms. Her performances of Mimi, Mignon, and Butterfly were widely acclaimed, and Debussy considered her interpretation of Mélisande in his opera *Pelléas et Mélisande* definitive.

Despite his occasionally meandering style, O'Connor brings to life Teyte's voracious personality. He also provides fascinating glimpses of some of her contemporaries — prima donnas Nellie Melba and Mary Garden, post-dramatist Maurice Maeterlinck, and the great Debussy, whose painful sensitivity Teyte communicated so brilliantly in her performances of his work.

Valerie Ward is a Montreal freelance writer.

Best Sellers

FICTION

	(pos. last week)
1. **The Matarese Circle**, Robert Ludlum (Longman Canada)	(1)
2. **Good as Gold**, Joseph Heller (Musson)	(2)
3. **Overload**, Arthur Hailey (Doubleday)	(5)
4. **The Island**, Peter Benchley (Doubleday)	(6)
5. **Shibumi**, Trevanian (General)	(4)
6. **The Last Enchantment**, Mary Stewart (Musson)	(9)
7. **War and Remembrance**, Herman Wouk (Little, Brown)	(9)
8. **The Underdogs**, William Weintraub (McClelland & Stewart)	(8)
9. **Vicar of Christ**, Walter F. Murphy (Collier-Macmillan)	(7)
10. **The White Shaman**, C.W. Nicol (McClelland & Stewart)	(9)

NON-FICTION

1. **The Bronx Zoo**, Sparky Lyle (General)	(1)
2. **How to Invest Your Money and Profit from Inflation**, Morton Shulman (Hurtig)	(2)
3. **Beyond Reason**, Margaret Trudeau (Random House Canada)	(3)
4. **Cruel Shoes**, Steve Martin (Random House Canada)	(6)
5. **The Powers That Be**, David Halberstam (Random House Canada)	(5)
6. **Lauren Bacall: By Myself**, Lauren Bacall (Random House Canada)	(4)
7. **The Complete Scarsdale Medical Diet**, Tarnower & Baker (Rawson Wade)	(5)
8. **Broca's Brain**, Carl Sagan (Random House Canada)	(-)
9. **A Distant Mirror**, Barbara Tuchman(Fitzhenry & Whiteside)	(-)
10. **The Merchants of Grain**, Morgan (Penguin)	(-)

The Gazette best seller list was compiled with local assistance from W.H. Smith, Coles, The Bay and Eaton's.

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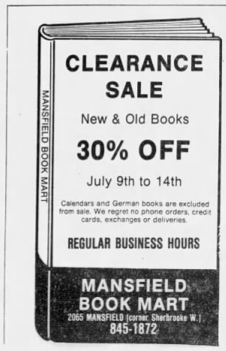

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